

Handout 13: Asset Building Checklist for Congregations

There are a number of ways that congregations build assets. Your policies, practices, procedures, and activities all can work to build assets with and for young people. Use this checklist to see how you're currently building Developmental Assets™ and to identify areas you could strengthen. After you have completed this worksheet, use it as a discussion starter.

- What are our current asset-building strengths? How can we build on them?
- What are our areas of new opportunities?

Our Congregation's Youth Initiative	We already do this fairly well	We could do this better	We cannot or should not do this at this time
Goals and Values			
1. Our written goals reflect a focus on or commitment to children and youth.			
2. Our goals reflect a commitment to the overall well being of young people in the community in addition to young people involved in this congregation.			
3. We consider the impact of our choices on children and youth as we make decisions.			
4. We focus on long-term outcomes as well as short-term results.			
5. We regularly share stories of the positive contributions of children and youth with the board and in our communications with congregations and others.			
Assets and Our Programs			
5. Our activities reflect the principles of asset building.			
6. We have identified all the ways our programs may affect or engage <i>all</i> young people, regardless of gender, ability, race, ethnicity, culture, and socioeconomic status.			
7. All children and youth feel welcomed in the activities of our youth initiative.			
8. We make intentional efforts to build intergenerational relationships through our activities. Adults and young people plan, serve, learn, and play side-by-side.			
9. We provide opportunities for children and youth to develop assets through service projects.			
Volunteer Policies			
10. We encourage parents to balance family and parenting responsibilities with their volunteer responsibilities.			
11. We support the other volunteer commitments that our volunteers have.			
12. We have written volunteer policies and procedures that reflect a positive focus (building on strengths).			

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Youth Involvement			
13. We actively seek youth involvement in planning the activities of our initiative.			
14. We enhance youth leadership skills by preparing youth to assume real roles and positions within our organization.			
15. We have addressed barriers to youth participation in the activities of our initiative (such as money/cost, time availability, transportation, accessibility, cultural differences, and language).			
16. We publicly recognize and celebrate youth contributions to our ministry.			
Community Partnerships			
17. We are familiar with other community resources to which we can refer children and families with specific needs.			
18. We cooperate with others to unite the community around asset-building strategies.			
19. We cooperate with other community leaders to advocate for public policies that support children, youth, and families.			

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